



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/672,359	09/28/2000	Nikolaus P.W. Almasy	TI-31690	7554

7590 01/08/2004

Ronald O Neerings
Texas Instruments Incorporated
P O Box 655474 M S 3999
Dallas, TX 75265

EXAMINER

EWART, JAMES D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2683	

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/672,359

Applicant(s)

ALMASSY, NIKOLAUS P.W.

Examiner

James D Ewart

Art Unit

2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 22-32 and 39-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13-21 and 33-38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment to claim 7 has overcome the objection, thus the objection to claim 7 is withdrawn.
2. The applicant's arguments regarding prior art rejections, filed November 24, 2003, have been fully considered by the Examiner, but they are not deemed persuasive.
3. Regarding claim 1 and 26, the argument is moot in grounds of new rejection. In any event, examiner interprets the scheduler of Brennan et al. in Table 3 in which the call is directed to either the car, office, home or cottage combined with the message responses of table 1, which indicates a plurality of announcements, as message response groups. There could be different responses depending on the location where the call is directed or they could be the same, but examiner considers this as groups of responses.
4. Regarding claims 4, 5 and 28, Brennan et al. teaches in table 3.0 time (Time) and hierarchy (Interrupt-ability).
5. Regarding claims 6 and 29, with respect to the security code / password and override message response see table 5.0.

6. Regarding claims 8, 9, 31 and 32, examiner equates the column of Table 1.0 labeled special treatment as the hierarchy of priority groups and considers table 1.0 or any combination thereof as the matrix. Examiner equates the name column with applicants identity.

7. Regarding claims 10 and 11, Brennan et al teaches in Col 6, Lines 47-48 that: "Some subscribers may wish to change, at regular intervals the way their calls are managed" which examiner equates with editing the matrices to modify a relationship between a priority group and a message response and editing the matrices to modify the relationship between a calling party identity and a priority group also see figures 3b – 3e.

8. Regarding claim 12, Brennan et al teaches the mobile station includes a local memory, a microprocessor and a software application of microprocessor instructions (see figure 1a; 17) but the message manipulation is done by the network, however the manipulation could be done by the mobile device via caller ID and a processing unit and software. Davis teaches storing message responses in the local memory (Figure 5; 420).

9. Regarding arguments to claims 13, 14 and 21, examiner agrees with applicant and has allowed these claims along with their independent claims.

10. Regarding claims 22 - 24, 39 and 40 Brennan et al teaches using caller ID see Column 3, Lines 65-68.

11. Regarding claims 7 and 30, Brennan et al discusses providing the caller ID to the subscriber and states that: “incoming call management is provided with an “an announcement of Caller Identification” which allows subscribers the decision to take a call once they know who is calling” see Column 2, Line 66 to Column 3, Line 2. The announcement could be on the display. Brennan et al goes on to say that “the pager receives and displays a numeric message entered by the caller. If the caller does not enter a digital code for transmission to the pager, the PCS can provide the pager with the CLID of the caller” see Column 9, Line 66 to Column 10, Line 2.

12. Regarding claim 25, Brennan et al discusses providing the caller ID to the subscriber and states that: “incoming call management is provided with an “an announcement of Caller Identification” which allows subscribers the decision to take a call once they know who is calling” see Column 2, Line 66 to Column 3, Line 2. which examiner equates with audible indicator. In addition, Brennan et al also states “the pager receives and displays a numeric message entered by the caller. If the caller does not enter a digital code for transmission to the pager, the PCS can provide the pager with the CLID of the caller” see Column 9, Line 66 to Column 10, Line 2. This means that the phone provides a display indicator as well as audible indicator, but examiner must only show one of the group of indicators. Regarding the message response, Brennan et al teaches forwarding the call to another telephone (Column 3, Line 62 – Column 3, Line 14).

13. Regarding claim 27, mobile phones inherently have switches for turning the mobile phone on and off. Transistors are also considered switches. Brennan et al teaches providing the

message response based on the time of day (Column 6, Lines 50-68). Further, Davis teaches manually switching the message response (see 0071 last two lines)

Claim Objections

14. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: "message response response groups" should be "message response groups". Appropriate correction is required.

15. Claim 5 indicates that it was not amended, but it was amended, reaction was changed to response. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless – (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

16. Claims 1, 4 - 11 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brennen (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,578).

Referring to claim 1, Brennean et al teaches in a wireless communications network (Figure 1A 17), a method for a mobile station to control the receipt of messages (Column 1,

Lines 5-12) the method comprising: creating a plurality of message response groups (Column 5, Table 1 and Table 3); identifying a calling party (Column 6, Lines 15-16); creating a plurality of message response groups; selecting a message response from the plurality of message response groups, in response to the identity of the calling party; and supplying the selected message response (Column 5, Table 1 and Column 9, Line 59).

Referring to claim 4, Brennen et al teaches wherein selecting a message response group from the plurality of message response groups includes selecting a message response group in response to factors including the time of day, communication activity level, and manual selection (Table 3.0).

Referring to claim 5, Brennen et al further teaches wherein creating a group of message responses includes creating a hierarchy of message responses; and the method further comprising: creating a hierarchy of priority groups (Column 5, Lines 13-15); inserting calling party identities into the priority groups (Column 5, Lines 13-15); creating a matrix of the priority group hierarchy cross-referenced to message response hierarchy (Column 5, Table 1.0); and wherein selecting a message response from the group of message responses (Column 5, Lines 58-59), in response to the identity of the calling party, includes: locating the calling party in a priority group; and selecting a message response in reaction to locating the priority group (Table 1.0 and Table 3.0).

Referring to claim 6, Brennen et al further teaches receiving a calling party security code; in response to receiving the security code, providing an override message response (Table 5.0 and Column 8, Lines 19-23 and Column 2, Lines 51 and 52).

Referring to claim 7, Brennen et al further teaches wherein the station further includes a display; and wherein the software application shows the identity of the calling party on the display, regardless of the message response selected in reaction to locating the priority group (Column 3 Lines 62-65).

Referring to claim 8, Brennen et al further teaches wherein creating a hierarchy of priority groups includes adding special identities to the hierarchy of priority groups (Column 5, Table 1); wherein creating a matrix of the priority group hierarchy cross-referenced to message response hierarchy includes cross-referencing the special identities to message responses (Column 5, Table 1); and wherein selecting a message response from the group of message responses, in response to the identity of the calling party, includes: prior to locating a calling party identity in a priority group, locating the calling party identity in the special identities; and selecting a message response in response to locating the calling party in the special identities (Column 5, Table 1).

Referring to claim 9, Brennen et al further teaches wherein creating a plurality of message response groups includes creating a plurality of message response hierarchies (Column 5, Table 1); and the method further comprising: creating matrices of the priority group hierarchy

cross-referenced to each of the plurality of message response hierarchies (Column 5, Table 1); and wherein selecting a message response group from the plurality of message response groups includes identifying the priority group-message response matrix to be used for cross-referencing the located priority group (Column 5, Table 1).

Referring to claim 10, Brennen et al further teaches comprising: editing the matrices to modify a relationship between a priority group and a message response (Column 6, Lines 47-55 and Figures 3b –3e).

Referring to claim 11, Brennen et al further teaches comprising: editing the matrices to modify the relationship between a calling party identity and a priority group (Column 8, Lines 47-51, Column 6, Lines 47-50 and Figures 3b –3e).

Referring to claim 41, Brennen et al teaches a wireless communications network, a system to control the receipt of messages, the system comprising: a mobile station having a wireless communications port to accept calls (Figure 1 a, 17); and a remote site having a wireless communication port (Figure 1a. mobile switch), a microprocessor, a software application of machine executable instructions, and a memory including a group of message responses(Figure 1 b), the remote site selecting a message response from the group of message responses in response to the identity of the calling party (Column 5, Table 1), and the remote site communicating the selected response to the mobile station (Column 5, Table 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 12, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al and further in view of Davis (U.S. Patent No. 4,942,598).

Referring to claim 12, Brennen et al teaches all the limitations of claim 12 in which the mobile station includes a local memory, a microprocessor, and a software application of microprocessor instructions (Figure 1a, 17); but does not teach storing message responses in the local memory. Davis teaches storing message responses in the local memory (Figure 5; 420 and Column 2, Lines 63-68). Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Brennan with the teaching of Davis of storing message responses in the local memory to distribute the recording of a telephone message (Column 2, Lines 65-66)

Referring to claim 22, Brennen et al further teaches in which the wireless communication system provides Caller ID services; and wherein identifying the calling party includes using the Caller ID service to identify the calling party (Column 3, Lines 62-68).

Referring to claim 23, Brennen et al further teaches wherein identifying a calling party includes determining a calling party identity from factors including the complete phone number, area code, unknown number, and blocked number (Column 4, Lines 52-54).

18. Claims 24-32, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al and further in view of Higuchi et al (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0058500)

Referring to claim 24, Brennen et al teaches a wireless communications network, a system to control the receipt of messages, the system comprising: a wireless communications port to accept calls, including a microprocessor, a software for application of machine executable instructions, and identifying a calling party and selecting a message response from tile group of message responses in response to the identity of the calling party, but does not teach a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses. Higuchi et al teaches a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Brennen et al with the teaching of Higuchi et al of using a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses to respond to an incoming call with a plurality of messages (0008)

Referring to claim 25, Brennan further teaches wherein the mobile station further includes indicators selected from the group including audible indicators (Column 2, Line 66 to Column 3, Line 2)), vibrator indicators, and a visual display indicators; and wherein message

responses include responses selected from the group including: using an indicator to alert, not using an indicator to alert, responding with a busy signal, not alerting and recording the message, and forwarding the call to another telephone (Column 3, Line 62 – Columnn 3, Line 14).

Referring to claim 26, Brennan et al further wherein the stored message response group is a message response group selected from a plurality of stored message response groups (Column 5, Lines 4&5 and Table 1 and Table 3)

Referring to claim 27, Davis teaches further teaches wherein the mobile station further includes a switch; and wherein the message response group stored in memory is selected in response to factors including the time of day, communication activity level, and manual selection using the switch (0071; last two lines).

Referring to claims 28 and 31, Brennen et al further teaches wherein creating a group of message responses includes creating a hierarchy of message responses (Column 5, table 1); and the method further comprising: creating a hierarchy of priority groups (Column 5, Lines 13-15); inserting calling party identities into the priority groups (Column 5, Table 1); creating a matrix of the priority group hierarchy cross-referenced to message response hierarchy (Column 5, Table 1.0); and wherein selecting a message response from the group of message responses (Column 5, Lines 58-59), in response to the identity of the calling party, includes: locating the calling party in a priority group; and selecting a message response in reaction to locating the priority group (Column 5, Table 1.0).

Referring to claim 29, Brennen et al further teaches the memory includes an override priority group; wherein the mobile station receives a calling party security code to trigger the override priority group (Table 5.0); and wherein the software application provides the override message response from memory in response to receiving the security code (Column 8, Lines 19-23 and Column 2, Lines 51 and 52), but does not teach a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses. Higuchi et al teaches a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Brennen et al with the teaching of Higuchi et al of using a mobile phone with a memory having a group of message responses to respond to an incoming call with a plurality of messages (0008)

Referring to claim 30, Brennen et al further teaches wherein the station further includes a display; and wherein the software application shows the identity of the calling party on the display, regardless of the message response selected in reaction to locating the priority group (Column 3 Lines 62-65).

Referring to claim 32, Brennen et al further teaches wherein the memory includes a plurality of message response hierarchies, and matrices of the priority group hierarchy cross-referenced to each of the plurality of message response hierarchies; and wherein the software application identifies the priority group-message response matrix to be used for cross-referencing the located priority group (Column 5, Table 1).

Referring to claim 39, Brennen et al further teaches which the wireless communication network provides Caller ID services and identifies the calling party using the Caller ID services provided by the wireless communications network (Column 3, Lines 62-68), but does not teach a mobile phone. Higuchi et al teaches a mobile phone. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Brennen et al with the teaching of Higuchi et al of using a mobile phone to respond to an incoming call with a plurality of messages (0008).

Referring to claim 40, Brennen et al further teaches wherein the software application identifies a calling party from factors including the complete phone number, local area exchange, area code, unknown number, and blocked number (Column 4, Lines 52-54), but does not teach a mobile phone. Higuchi et al teaches a mobile phone. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Brennen et al with the teaching of Higuchi et al of using a mobile phone to respond to an incoming call with a plurality of messages (0008).

Allowable Subject Matter

19. Claims 13-21 and 33-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Referring to claim 13, the references cited do not teach loading the priority group-message response matrices into local memory; and wherein selecting a message response group from the plurality of message response groups includes using the software application to select a priority group-message response matrix from memory for use in cross-referencing the located priority group.

Referring to claim 14, the references cited do not teach loading the priority group-message response matrices into the remote memory; and wherein selecting a message response group from the plurality of message response groups includes loading a priority group-message response matrix, into local memory from the remote memory, for use in cross-referencing the located priority group.

Referring to claim 21, Brennen et al further teaches in which a remote site memory, software application of machine executable instructions, and microprocessor are included; and the method further comprising: loading the priority group-message response matrices into remote memory; and wherein selecting a message response group from the plurality of message response groups includes using the remote site software application to select a priority group-message response matrix from remote memory for use in cross-referencing the located priority group; and wherein supplying the message response includes supplying the message response to the mobile station from the remote site (Column 4, Line 55-66 and Table 1 on Column 5).

Referring to claim 33, the references cited do not disclose wherein the mobile station port accepts a priority group message response matrix transmitted by the remote memory for storage in the mobile station memory.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

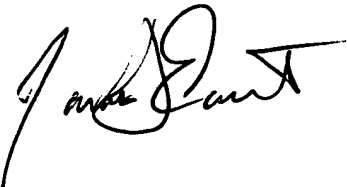
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Application/Control Number: 09/672,359

Art Unit: 2683

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James D Ewart whose telephone number is (703) 305-4826. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am - 4pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (703)308-5318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-9508 for regular communications and (703)305-9508 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.



James Ewart
January 5, 2004



WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600